MRIDANGARPANAM - A celebration of 25 years of stage performances

◆ Aditya Rajagopalan

On the morning of 23rd August 2025, the Lion Dr. Ashok Mehta Auditorium reverberated with the divine sound of Mridangams.

Marking a significant milestone for Mridangists Rohit Prasad and Aditya Rajagopalan–25 years of stage performances, three decades of learning and growing under the guidance of revered Guru Shri T S Nandakumar, Mridangarpanam was not just a performance, but a humble offering of rhythm, dedicated to the powerful pedagogy and tireless mentorship of Guru Shri TS Nandakumar.

Curated and presented by Rohit Prasad and Aditya Rajagopalan, Mridangārapanam was a tribute to the legacy of their guru and the spirit of the parampara that continues to inspire generations of performers. This celebration honoured the unwavering guidance of their Guru and his efforts that have shaped Rohit and Aditya's journey in rhythm.

The proceedings commenced with the Bhagawad Prarthana where 5 young students chanted shlokas, invoking the blessings of the divine and elders.

Manaschenna lagnam Guroranghripadme tatat kim tatat kim tatat kim tatat kim... Of what use is one's life (and full of achievements) if his mind does not attach to the lotus feet of the Guru says Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya. A man's life is incomplete without Gurudhyaanam and Guruvandanam.

Seeking the blessings of their Guru Shri TS Nandakumar, his beloved wife Smt. Shyla, Vocal Gurus Smt. Vijayalakshmi Nathan and Smt. Radha Namboodhiri, and the revered guests of honour Dr. V. Shankar and Dr. K. Ganesh Kumar, the stage was ready for the performances to commence. An opening address by the ever-eloquent Dr. V. Shankar left the performers motivated, and the audience charged up in expectation.

Rohit and Aditya took to the stage along with their students. The performance commenced with an interesting 9 speed Tha, Thi, Thom, Nam which was recited by the students. The students then played various varshaigals or verses on the Mridangam, consisting of simple finger strokes to complex mathematical arrangements.